

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 323
By McNally

A RESOLUTION relative to federal funding for The Center for Applied Science and Technology for Law Enforcement (CASTLE).

WHEREAS, The Center for Applied Science and Technology for Law Enforcement (CASTLE) successfully completed six months of pilot operation in September, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the laudable mission of the CASTLE program is to understand and solve critical needs of the United States law enforcement and corrections community through the application of unique or specialized technology; and

WHEREAS, The CASTLE program is committed to serving law enforcement and corrections in a fourteen (14) state Southeastern region, and transferring its lessons-learned, methodologies and technologies nationally; and

WHEREAS, serving as a partnership of key Southeastern law enforcement professionals, universities, private sector companies and the Oak Ridge scientific complex, CASTLE has demonstrated its ability to identify the real needs of grass roots law enforcement, develop new forensic capabilities, apply advanced technology to crime fighting and improve police officer safety; and

WHEREAS, CASTLE has the potential to be a significant contributor to national security; and

WHEREAS, CASTLE is proactive, innovative and tireless in its service to national security through technology for better, safer and less costly law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, to date, the CASTLE program has provided invaluable technical and research services to numerous Tennessee state and local law enforcement agencies that have sought access to specialized technology beyond their scope and means via CASTLE's expert assistance; and

WHEREAS, the excellent support provided by CASTLE in these instances has been instrumental in solving several murder cases and other sensitive, high profile cases; and

WHEREAS, the centerpiece of the next phase of CASTLE, as identified in its Strategic Plan, will be the establishment of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) as the lead laboratory for a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) sponsored virtual National Forensic Center; and

WHEREAS, if adequately funded by the federal government, CASTLE will be a leader in solving critical needs of grass roots law enforcement through innovative management and selective application of advanced technology; and

WHEREAS, the recent budget impasse in Washington, D.C. has threatened the continuation of adequate federal funding for the next phase of the CASTLE program; and

WHEREAS, it would indeed be devastating to the public safety and welfare if the unique, advanced technology, innovative methodologies and tireless professionalism of the CASTLE program were to be sacrificed in the interests of less worthy components of the federal budget; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby memorializes the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice to secure adequate federal funding for the implementation of the next phase of The Center for Applied Sciences and Technology for Law

Enforcement (CASTLE) as identified in its Strategic Plan dated October, 1995, and to maintain adequate funding for the CASTLE program at its present level of operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Janet Reno, Esquire, U.S. Attorney General; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and to each member of Tennessee's congressional delegation.